GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3154
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
VANDALIZATION OF INDIAN CULTURE CENTRE IN NEW SOUTH WALES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Cultural Centre in Woolgoolga township of New South Wales was vandalized recently and priceless items worth several thousands crores of rupees were destroyed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has taken up the matter with the Australian authorities for adequate compensation and for the protection of culture and the ethics of the Indian community settled there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Yes. According to information available with Government, the Rajmahal Indian Culture Centre, a private business entity, in the township of Woolgoolga in the New South Wales, Australia was vandalised on the afternoon of February 6, 2007. A number of artefacts were damaged or lost. However, their value and historical significance cannot be assessed on the basis of available information.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The owner of the Centre has not sought any assistance from Government and has informed that a case had been registered with the police authorities and his insurance company would cover the monetary loss.